THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Due to unseasonal rain in the months of February and March, 2007, patches/ potholes developed in some portions of Jammu-Pathankot highway, which are being repaired. These repair works are likely to be completed by the end of May, 2007.

Delhi-Jaipur Expressway

†4703. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Minister of Finance, during his budget speech in the year 2006, had mentioned about the construction of Expressway from Delhi to Jaipur; and

(b) if so, the schedule of its construction and by when the construction work would commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The Government has approved for construction of 1,000 kms expressways at a cost of Rs. 16,680 crore in the country under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-VI, where in Delhi to Jaipur has been identified as one of the corridors. A prioritization study has been undertaken for final selection of the stretches for implementation. NHDP Phase-VI is targeted for completion by December, 2015.

Slow progress of four laning of NH-57

†4704. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP), construction work for four laning of National Highway No. 57 in Bihar is not being carried out in qualitative and appropriate manner;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the agency responsible for construction is deliberately showing laxity in it due to the fact that departmental officers are not prompt in site inspection and checking in order to maintain the quality and standard of the constructions of the said four laning project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The quality control of four laning works of NH-57 are monitored by Supervision Consultant appointed through International Competitive Bidding by NHAI. Quality tests are regularly carried out at field laboratories by Supervision Consultants. In order to carefully monitor all projects of NH-57, NHAI has set up Project Implementation Units (PIUs) at suitable locations along the stretch. Senior officers regularly visit project sites for monitoring of projects.

(c) Does not arise.

First commercial space launch by India

4705. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India made its first commercial space launch recently when its PSLV-C8 carried an Italian Satellite successfully and placed it in orbit 550 km. above the Earth from Sriharikota;

(b) the amount which ISRO charged from the Italian Space Agency for launching the Italian Satellite indicating the space area that AGILE would study; and

(c) the advantages that would accrue to India as a whole by going into space business and ISRO's joining a commercial launchers' club, indicating the names of other member countries of this $2 Billion Market club?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.